

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4763

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CINCSO

DIA WASHDC

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT, UY

SUBJECT: LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN INSTITUTIONAL CRISIS

CINCSO FOR POLAD

REF: MONTEVIDEO 1930

1. SUMMARY. MONTEVIDEO IS GRADUALLY RETURNING TO NORMAL LIFE AFTER THE DISSOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATURE ON JUNE 26. THE MORNING NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED TODAY AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IS AVAILABLE BUT NOT OPERATING AT FULL CAPACITY. END SUMMARY.

2. THE PRESS REPORTS TWO MEETINGS BETWEEN THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR, NESTOR BOLENTINI, AND LEADERS OF THE COMMUNIST- DOMINATED CNT LABOR CONFEDERATION ON JUNE 27 AND 28. AT THE LATTER MEETING THE CNT LEADERS DELIVERED A LETTER TO THE MINISTER WHICH AFFIRMED THE " PATRIOTIC SENTIMENTS" OF URUGUAYAN WORKERS AND

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THEIR DESIRE TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE PRESENT CRISIS " WITHOUT THE IMPOSITION OF FURTHER SUFFERING." THE CNT LEADERS SAID THEY DID NOT CONSIDER THAT PRESIDENT BORDABERRY'S SPEECH OF JUNE 27 SOUGHT THIS SAME END. THE LETTER TO BOLENTINI CONTINUED, " NOR DO WE UNDERSTAND THAT SUCH HIGH GOALS AS YOU YOURSELF HAVE EXPRESSED NECESSARILY HAD TO BE SOUGHT THROUGH THE VIOLATION OF THE CONSTITUTION." THE CNT LETTER THEN REQUESTED: (A) THE RESTORATION OF FULL POLITICAL AND LABOR RIGHTS AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION. (B) THE RE- ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSITUTIONAL RIGHTS. (C) ECONOMIC MEASURES LIKE THE NATIONALIZATION OF THE BANKING SYSTEM. (D) IMPROVEMENT IN THE STANDARD OF LIVING. (E) AN END TO " FASCIST" BANDS IN THE SCHOOLS. BOLENTINI REPORTEDLY ASSURED CNT LEADERS THAT UNION RIGHTS WOULD BE RESPECTED BY THE ADMINISTRATION.

3. A NUMBER OF SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE RESIGNED OR EXPRESSED THEIR INTENTION TO DO SO AS A RESULT OF THE CLOSURE OF CONGRESS. THE RESIGNATIONS OF PABLO PURRIEL, THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH, JOSE ROBIANA ANSO, THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE, AND WALTER CAMPO, THE UNDERSECRETARY OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE, HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED. JORGE PRESNO, THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, ANGEL SERVETTI, THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS, AND RICARDO ZERBINO DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, HAVE PRESENTED THEIR RESIGNATIONS BUT AGREED TO REMAIN IN OFFICE UNTIL SUCCESSORS CAN BE FOUND. CAMPO, ACCORDING TO A KNOWLEDGEABLE EMBASSY SOURCE, SAID ON JUNE 28 THAT SERVETTI'S AND ZERBINO'S RESIGNATIONS WERE IN PART THE RESULT OF PRESSURE FROM MILITARY SECTORS FOR THEIR REMOVAL. THE PRESIDENT OF THE GOU WAGE AND PRICE CONTROL COMMISSION (COPRIN), FAUSTINO LORENZO, THE GOVERNOR (" INTENDENTE") OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ROCHA, DOMINGO LOPEZ, A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL (CONAE), AQUILES LANZA, AND A MEMBER OF THE SECONDARY EDUCATION COUNCIL, DIDIER OPERTTI, HAVE ALSO RESIGNED. THE PRESS REPORTS THAT THE NEW COUNCIL OF STATE WILL BE NAMED NEXT WEEK. SPECULATION ABOUT ITS COMPOSITION FOCUSES ON A NUMBER OF CONSERVATIVE CIVILIANS, SOME OF WHOM SERVED IN THE NOW- DISSOLVED LEGISLATURE.

4. CENSORSHIP HAS SEVERELY LIMITED OPPOSITION ACCESS TO THE COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA. ON JUNE 27 THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR INFORMED THE PRESS THAT THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF ARTICLES ARE PRO-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HIBITED: (1) " THOSE WHICH NEGATIVELY AFFECT THE PRESTIGE OF THE EXECUTIVE OR OF THE ARMED FORCES OR WHICH WOULD DISTURB SECURITY AND PUBLIC ORDER"; (2) " THOSE CONCERNING THE DISSOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATURE; (3) " REPORTS ON POLITICAL LEADERS, LEGISLATORS, OR ANYONE ELSE WHICH VIOLATES ARTICLE ONE OF THIS DECREE; " (4) " STORIES ABOUT THE DETENTION OF THOSE CHARGED BY THE MILITARY JUSTICE"; AND (5) " CALLS FOR POLITICAL MEETINGS WHICH VIOLATE

ARTICLE ONE."

5. IN SPITE OF THE CENSORSHIP SOME PAPERS DID PUBLISH EDITORIALS. " LA MANANA" SAID THAT IT DID NOT LIKE WHAT HAD HAPPENED BUT THAT " THE PRESIDENT HAD NO OTHER WAY TO SAVE THE ESSENCE OF THE INSTITUTIONS." " EL PAIS" CALLED FOR THE GREATEST EFFORTS TO MAKE THE PRESENT SIAUTION AS BRIEF AN INTERRUPTION OF THE NORMAL ORDER AS POSSIBLE. THE COMMUNIST PAPER " EL POPULAR" SAID THAT IT DISAGREED WITH THE CLOSURE OF THE LEGISLATURE AND THAT THE EXPERIENCE OF OTHER COUNTIRES IN LATIN AMERICA SHOWED THAT DOING SO WITHOUT A " TOTAL CHANGE OF THE GOVERNMENT" WILL NOT PRODUCE SOCIAL CHANGE.

6. ACCORDING TO A RELIABLE SOURCE, INTERIOR MINISTER BOLENTINI ATTEMPTED ON JUNE 28 TO REACH AN AGREEMENT WITH THE RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY, SAMUEL LICHTENSZTEJN, WHEREBY THE GOU WOULD RESPECT THE UNIVERSITY'S AUTONOMY, PROVIDED THAT STUDENT PROTESTS WERE CONFINED TO THE CAMPUS. LECHTENSZTEJN REPLIED THAT HE COULD NOT GUARANTEE THE BEHAVIOR OF THE STUDENTS AND BOLENTINI IMPLIED THAT THE UNIVERSITY MIGHT BE CLOSED. UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, HOWEVER, CONTINUE TO CONFINED THEIR ACTIONS TO THE OCCUPATION OF THE UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS. OUR SOURCE IS HOPEFUL THAT ACTUAL CONFRONTATION MAY BE AVOIDED.

7. COMMENT: THE GOVERNMENT AND THE CNT APPEAR TO BE SEEKING A " MODUS VIVENDI" WHICH WOULD AVOID THE MOST LIKELY SOURCE OF CONFRONTATION. HOWEVER, RECALCITRANT FACTIONS WITHIN EITHER THE MILITARY OR THE UNIONS COULD PRODUCE A CONFLICT. UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, LIKEWISE, HAVE NOT BEEN NEUTRALIZED ALTHOUGH THEY APPEAR CALM AT PRESENT. THE IMPENDING ANNOUNCEMENT OF A WAGE INCREASE PROMISED FOR JULY 1 COULD EITHER PRODUCE NE
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